



LINK–UP: Linking India–EU Mobility Opportunities with Uttar Pradesh

Dates: 26 February 2026

Location: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 26 February 2026 (10:00 am – 5:00 pm IST)

State-Level Workshop on India-EU Mobility

Venue: Hotel Clarks

Day 1: Thursday, 26 February 2026 (10 am – 5 pm IST)	
Time (IST)	Subject
10.00 to 11:15 am	<u>Inaugural Session</u> Moderator: Ameen Arimbura, Project Officer, ICMPD • Lighting of Lamp • A short video on opportunities in U.P • Welcome address by representative of Govt. of UP- Dr. M.K. Shanmuga Sundaram, Principal Secretary, Department of Labour & Employment, Government of Uttar Pradesh • Remarks by Ms. Gina Uika, Joint Secretary, EP&W, MEA • Remarks by Mr. Abhijit Chakraborty, Joint Secretary, ICWA • Address by Special Secretary, Labour, Govt. of UP - Mr. Kunal Silku • Remarks by Ms. Veronika Liskova, First Secretary, Delegation of European Union to India and Bhutan • Remarks by Mr. Eugenio Bortolusso, Head of the Consular Chancellery, Embassy of Italy • Remarks by Dr. Surabhi Singh, Country Coordinator, ICMPD • Address by Ms. Radhika Sunger, National Project Coordinator, ILO • Remarks by Varanasi Divisional Commissioner- Shri S. Rajalingam (tbc) • Keynote address by Chief Guest - Honorable Minister Shri Anil Rajbhar
11:15 to 11:30	Tea/Coffee Break
11.30-13:00	Session 1: Understanding Mobility Pathways: Linking opportunities with aspirations Moderator: Ms. Radhika Sunger, National Project Coordinator, ILO



Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility



	• Presentation by Department of Labour - Ms. Neha Prakash, IAS, Director, Employment) on opportunities and challenges on skilled/semi-skilled overseas mobility from the state • Presentation by National Skill Development Centre (NSDC) on skilling and talent ecosystem in the state of Uttar Pradesh- Mr. Rajat Bhatnagar, Regional Head- North Region, NSDC • Presentation from EU Member States on member state specific information on labour shortages, platforms where potential migrants can access employment opportunities, and current initiatives focused on recruitment/skill development in India- -Mr. Arkaprabha Biswas, Coordinator India Offices, Uni-Italia Association -Ms. Shreshta Sharma, Talent Manager India, Business Finland -Representative of Goethe Institute, Germany • Resources to understand opportunities in the EU - Presentation on the project and its knowledge products –Dr. Surabhi Singh, Country Coordinator, ICMPD and Ms. Radhika Sunger, National Project Coordinator, ILO • Presentation on skilled migration/apprenticeship based on Skills Analysis Report- Mr. Gabriel Bordado, Skills Specialist, ILO Q&A
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.00	Session 2: Building Awareness on Challenges of Irregular Migration and protecting against fraudulent recruitment practices Moderator: Ameen Arimbra, Project Officer, ICMPD • Presentation by UP Home Authorities on migration scenario from UP to EU - Ms. Padmaja Chauhan, ADG • Presentation by Protector of Emigrants on overseas migration scenario and efforts related to prevention of fraudulent recruitment practices. - Mr Sunil Shah, PoE, Uttar Pradesh • Risks and Challenges associated with Irregular Migration (EU MS)- Q&A
15.00-15.30	Session 3: Understanding Schengen Visa Application Process & Procedures for short stay • Presentation by ICMPD- Mr. Ameen Arimbra, Project Officer, ICMPD Q&A
15:30-16:30	Session 4: Pre-departure Information: Awareness session Moderator: Dr. Surabhi Singh, Country Coordinator, ICMPD



Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility



	• Challenges and gaps on PDOT Trainings in UP-by Govt of U.P- Mr. M.H. Khan, President, RA Association, Uttar Pradesh • Presentation on PDOT Handbook for Europe- Ms. Radhika Sunger, National Project Coordinator, ILO and Mr. Kishlay Kirti, Research Associate, ICWA • Interventions from Regional Passport Officer, Lucknow- Mr. Shubham Singh Open Discussion on how resources can be effectively disseminated/enhanced
16:30 to 16:45	Takeaways and way forward (closing ceremony) • Short remarks by Ms. Gina Uika, Joint Secretary, EP&W, MEA • Short remark by Ms. Veronika Liskova, First Secretary, EUD • Short remark by Ms. Neha Prakash, IAS, Director, Employment, Govt of UP
16:45-16:50	Vote of Thanks- Mr. Kishlay Kirti, Research Associate, ICWA
16:50 onwards	Networking Tea